

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An optical attenuator comprising:

an optical fiber comprising an attenuating part which is bent to obtain a desired attenuation; ~~and~~

a fixture fixing the optical fiber thereto; and

a housing having a cover and a frame to receive the fixture therein, wherein the fixture comprises a rear supporting portion, a central retaining portion, and two holders for engaging with two corresponding optical connectors, respectively.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, further comprising two optical connectors respectively aligned with opposite ends of the optical fiber, the optical connectors engaging with the fixture.

Claim 3 (original): The optical attenuator as described in claim 2, wherein each of the optical connectors is a subscriber connector plug connector.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 2, wherein the optical connectors are partially engaged in the fixture housing.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be ~~generally~~ substantially semicircular.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be generally substantially coiled.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

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Claim 9 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, wherein each of the two holders has a through hole for passage of the optical fiber, and the fixture defines two grooves in communication with the through holes of the two holders to retain ~~retaining~~ corresponding parts of the optical fiber, respectively.

Claims 10-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): An optical attenuator comprising:
an optical fiber comprising an attenuating part bent to obtain a desired attenuation;
a fixture fixing the optical fiber thereto and comprising two front holders;
and
two optical connectors respectively aligned-aligning with opposite ends of the optical fiber and engaging with the holders of the fixture, respectively; and
a housing including a cover and a frame;
wherein the fixture is received in the housing ~~the attenuating part of the optical fiber is bent such that a desired attenuation is obtained.~~

Claim 13 (original): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein each of the optical connectors is a subscriber connector plug connector.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein the optical connectors are partially engaged in the housing fixture.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

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Claim 16 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be substantially generally-semicircular.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be substantially generally-coiled.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein each of the holders has a through hole for passage of the optical fiber, and the fixture defines two grooves in communication with the through holes of the two holders to retain retaining-corresponding parts of the optical fiber respectively.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of making an attenuator comprising the steps of:

providing a pair of juxtaposed fiber connectors with mating ports facing to a same direction;

connecting rear ends of said pair of connectors with an optical fiber;

securing the fiber in a fixture position-around two opposite end portions

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thereof;

forming a curved portion between said two end portions;

adjusting radii or turns of said curved portion for obtaining a desired attenuation value; and

permanently fixing said curved portion to a supporting portion by adhesive in position without changing a configuration thereof; and

packaging said fixture and said fiber connectors in a housing having a frame and a cover mating therewith.